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A SHORT NARRATIVE OF Mr. Fitz-Gerald,

Who lately was Summoned up from

BRISTOL

By one of His

Majesties Messengers,

To the HONOURABLE

PRIVY COUNCIL

For SUSPICION of

HIGH TREASON

Giving a Brief Account of his Carriage there at the Board, his Innocency, and other particulars relating to the farther Discovery of this Hellish

POPISH PLOT.

Omnibus qui patriam conservaverint, adjuverint, auxerint, certus est cœlo, & definitus locus, ubi beati ævo sempiterno fruuntur. Cicero.

Printed in the Year 1680.

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A SHORT NARRATIVE OF Mr. Fitz-Gerald,

Who was lately Summoned up from *Briſtol*, by one of His Majeſties Meſſengers, to the Honourable Privy Council, for ſuſpicion of High-Treaſon, giving a Brief Account of his Carriage there at the Board, his Innocency, and other particulars relating to the farther Diſcovery of this Helliſh *Popiſh Plot*.

MR. *Fitz-Gerald* formerly a *Franciſcan*, Lecturer of Philoſophy, and Student of Divinity in *Ireland*, having been very diligent and ſtudious in the reading of Books of Controverſies, ſuch as *Thomas Aquinas*, *&c.* and being very deſirous to ſatisfie and ſettle his mind upon the beſt Baſis and Foundation, which had been for a long time very wavering, found very ſenſibly that the Church of *Rome* both in her Doctrine and Manners, had departed in many weighty points from her primitive purity, for which the Ancient *Romans* in St. *Paul*'s time were ſo highly commended, and their faith become famous throughout the Univerſe; and that now the Church of *Rome* having apoſtatized, and ſo far degenerated from her primitive Integrity, was no longer to be embraced by him, but to be accounted no better than a ſpurious Harlot by all good Chriſtians. To this end therefore, that he might

ſet himſelf ſeriouſly to this ſo neceſſary a work of his Converſion, there being ſeveral errours which that Church maintains, and of which he could not be well ſatisfied, by his reading of their Divines and Authors; he often conferred with many perſons accounted learned of ſeveral ſtrange points and opinions which that Church holds, ſuch as *Tranſubſtantiation, Purgatory, &c.* who gave have him not the leaſt content and ſatisfaction to thoſe Queries he propoſed to them. Since therefore that in *Ireland* he found ſo little ſucceſs, he reſolved to travel into *France* and *Italy*, where he converſed and often diſputed, with the moſt famous and learned of thoſe Nations, but was no wiſer than before; and the more he conſider'd of their tenets, he found nothing but ſenſleſs abſurdities contained in that Idolatrous Religion, and thus concluded with himſelf, that no perſons of common ſenſe, and endued with any reaſon, could believe or give their aſſent to them, who make *Ignorance the mother of Devotion*, and deprive men of the Word of God, which as the Apoſtle has told us, *is only able to make us wiſe unto ſalvation*, who introduce in the room of it, their own ſenſleſs and ridiculous fopperies, empty gaudy Pageantry, to amuſe poor ignorant ſouls with the outward ſplendor of it, full of empty Ceremonies, but quite deſtitute of that Innocency, meekneſs and ſpotleſs purity, which becomes the Goſpel of Chriſt, as it was delivered and taught by our bleſſed Saviour himſelf, and tranſmitted down unto us by the holy Apoſtles; the Church of *Rome* holding only the name of Chriſtians, and every day becoming more and more odious unto all perſons; who daily forſake her Communion, and abhor to have any ſociety with her, by reaſon of her abominable practices, damnable and no leſs than Atheiſtical Principles, Helliſh Plots, countenancing Maſſacres, and Treaſonable Contrivances, which ſhe daily infuſes, and perpetually inſtills into the minds of her deluded Votaries; who walking blindfold through an implicit faith of obedience which they ſuppoſe is due to their Church, and the Popes Infallibility, refuſe no attempts impoſed on them, though never ſo Diabolical, and hope to merit Heaven, by aſſaſſinating Kings, and deſtroying Kingdoms; ſubverting Laws and the Government; and endeavour to make all thoſe Hereticks which oppoſe them, to truckle under the Popes Dominion; whom they blaſphemouſly call by no leſs a name and title than this, *Deus Noſter Papa, Our Lord God the Pope.*

Having ſeriouſly ponder'd and weigh'd theſe things before-mentioned, he thereupon fully purpoſed to leave thoſe Countreys, and come for *England* where he hoped to find, not only greater ſatisfaction in his Conſcience, as to Religion, by conferring with thoſe many worthy and Reverend Divines which abound amongſt us; but likewiſe to ſerve his King and Countrey, in ſome very weighty Diſcoveries, mindful of that memorable ſaying of *Cicero, non nobis nati ſumus, ſed partim patriæ, &c.* Men are not born for themſelves, but for their Countrey, Parents, Kindred, and Friends; but our Countrey above all the reſt ought to have the Preheminence, as *Ovid* very well,

Neſcio qua natale ſolum dulcedine cunctos
Ducit, & immemores non ſinit eſſe ſui.

Theſe

Theſe his Diſcoveries are touching the Plot in *Ireland*, how affairs were there carried on by the Popiſh Party, to ſubvert and deſtroy the Government now eſtabliſhed amongſt us, and to bring Popiſh Anarchy and Confuſion in the room of it, wherein they were indefatigably induſtrious; for ſeveral Popiſh Biſhops met, and had divers Conſultations and Meetings, near the River *Shannon* in *Ireland*, very large ſummes of Money were raiſed to carry on their deſign, the Popes Legate was in *Ireland*, and did encourage the Popiſh Party in this their Enterprize, as likewiſe to diſpoſe of the Kingdom for his Holineſs own uſe, great Encouragements and Preferments were promiſed thoſe Perſons which would hazard their lives for the good of the Catholick cauſe, which was no leſs than meritorious; told them that this was an opportunity which by no means was to be neglected, but every one of their party muſt put a helping hand to it; they likewiſe took care that their youth ſhould be well exerciſed in Armes, and to be all ready when they ſhould be commanded to fight; he likewiſe gives us an Account of a large veſſel which came from *Spain*, fraught with Powder, Ball, and all ſort of Armes and Ammunition, which was happily caſt away near *Kingſale* Harbour, no doubt to the great grief of all good Catholicks, who we may imagine were poſſeſt with no little Conſternation at this unlookt for unlucky Accident, who, being ſuch exquiſite Incendiaries, no doubt would have made excellent uſe of that *Cargo* if it had landed, and come ſafe to them. But thus the Divine Providence defeats, and confounds the wicked and treacherous practices of unreaſonable and cruel men, who delight in blood, and paſſionately deſire to embrew their hands in the blood of the Innocent, who cry aloud for vengeance to the Almighty, who does miraculouſly deliver them from ſuch Monſters, and brings them to condign puniſhment for ſuch Enormities.

But I only deſigning a ſhort diſcourſe of their proceedings in *Ireland*, you may ere long expect a more full, and exact Account in his own Depoſitions which he does ere long intend to publiſh to the world, to the ſhame and confuſion of the Popiſh party, and for the content and ſatisfaction of all zealous Proteſtants, I proceed now therefore to his Journey.

Being come to *London*, and having little or no Acquaintance there, he made it his whole buſineſs, to enquire out ſome worthy perſon, to whom he might candidly impart ſo important an affair, knowing very well that delayes in a buſineſs of that Conſequence, were dangerous; but could not find any, with great patience enduring much want and diſtreſs, exiled his Native Countrey, ſtill waiting an opportunity to make himſelf and buſineſs known; not at all diſcouraged, but ſtill remaining very zealous to ſerve his King and Countrey, when ever he ſhould find an opportunity to meet with a real and cordial Friend who would promote his Affairs, and that he might freely diſcloſe his thoughts unto; who found out one, who at the firſt very civilly and courteouſly entertained him for ſome time; and in ſome things did aſſiſt him, but this laſted not long, for of a ſuddain he forlook him, and his buſineſs, upon what grounds he knows not, not having been guilty of any Uncivility whereby he might incurr his diſpleaſure; finding therefore no hopes in him, he was forced to ſeek out ſome other, and very ſoon after he came acquainted with a Reverend perſon, unto whom he freely

 diſcloſed

diſcloſed his buſineſs; but for want of Encouragement he could not as yet proſecute it, whereupon he told him, he would ſerve him to the utmoſt of his power, and made it his whole Buſineſs to follow his Concerns. Mr. *Fitz-Gerald* daily viſited him, and conferred with him, deſirous that no delays might be, which he was very mindful of, but found not that quick diſpatch which he deſired; having tryed all wayes imaginable to procure him money but to no purpoſe; all his Friends being extreme backward in it, though no leſs than a National Concern, upon whoſe Journey, ſo much of good depended to theſe three Kingdoms; which indubitably is a very great diſcouragement to any perſon to concern himſelf with any thing of that nature, though obliged to ſerve his King and Countrey to the utmoſt of his capacity; when we ſee ſo few publick ſpirited perſons, who ſit at the helm of Government, and though they have vaſt Eſtates, will ſcarcely contribute one farthing, though it be for the ſaving of their own Throats, their Eſtates, Laws, Religion, and whatſoever is moſt ſacred or dear to them; which would indubitably have been all involv'd in the ſame precipice of deſtruction; had we not had [together with the Divine Providence which continually ſurrounds and encompaſſes us, as a ſure Bulwark, by it's ſecure protection,] likewiſe ſome very vigilant and induſtrious perſons, who make it their daily buſineſs to ſift out their inhumane and barbarous Practices, which ſuch Incendiaries as they are, have too often brought to paſs; but this Plot has now prov'd an abortive brat, not without an over-ruling Power ſenſibly perſpicuous in the hands of thoſe Inſtruments, which he has made to be *Patres Patriæ*, the deliverers of their Countrey in a much more tranſcendent degree than any Roman Conquerour could claim after all his Victories and Trophees gained by his valour, over his Conquered and Submiſſive Captive Enemies, for now every day produces new Champions for the good of the Kingdom, which cut off this *Hydra*, as faſt as it grows, and will in time root her up, and leave her naked, expoſed to the contempt and ſcorn of all perſons, and again make good that ſaying of the Poet in another ſenſe than as he literally ſpoke it,

——*Jam ſeges eſt ubi Roma fuit.*

My zeal for my Countrey has tranſported me thus far out of my way, now I ſhall reaſſume the thred of my Diſcourſe; His friend finding no poſſibility of any ſupplies from thoſe whom he was in hopes to have received it from, having a ſum of Money by him reſolves at his own Coſt and Charge, to ſend him, and another perſon, one Mr. *Charleton*, lately a Clark to that worthy Juſtice of the Peace Sir *William Waller*, to whom our Nation is not a little obliged for his indefatigable diligence, and daily Induſtry in detecting Popiſh Prieſts and Jeſuites, which before the diſcovery of the Plot, like ſo many Locuſts, did ſwarm in every Corner of this Kingdom, and infect with their poiſonous doctrine, and do more hurt than thoſe Locuſts did the *Ægyptians*; through his Care we are now bleſſed be God pretty well rid of them, being a true and lively pattern of Loyalty to his Soveraign, and whom all true ſubjects ſhould imitate, zealouſly to promote the Proteſtant Intereſt; but this by the by, the better to clear my diſcourſe concerning this *Charleton*, who was deſigned as Mr. *Fitz-Geralds* Companion in his Journey, which how well he behaved himſelf I will declare by and by.

Mr. *Fitz-*

Mr. *Fitz-Gerald* by the assistance of his friend had several Letters from persons of Honour to further him in his business, when he was landed in *Ireland*, and Directions given him, how to manage his business when he came to *Bristol*; thus having at length gotten those necessaries which he wanted through the means and generosity of his Reverend Friend; Mr. *Fitz-Gerald*, and this *Charleton* both took Coach at the *Goat* Tavern near *Cheering Cross*, to go for *Bristol*, where they both arrived in a short time, which they testified by many Letters sent to *London*, Sr. *John Knight* the Mayor of *Bristol* being requested to give his assistance, which he accordingly performed. The wind being contrary, here they were compelled to wait a fortnight or three weeks, which all that time continued and varied very little from one certain point, not sufficient to land them in *Ireland*. *Charleton* instead of being an associate, and co-helper with Mr. *Fitz-Gerald*, carryed himself very rudely towards him, not without opprobrious and uncivil Language, which he bore all along with great patience, but extreamly troubled in mind, because that his business was retarded. Whilest they were still expecting a fair wind, *Charleton* finds some papers of his under his Bolster which were of no such sad Consequence to him as High-Treason, for they were counterfeited by *Charleton*, and those he had, only some Directions and *Memorandums*, for his memory, to assist him when he came to *Ireland*. Mr. *Fitz-Gerald* searching his Pockets soon mist his Papers, and sent the Maid of the house up stairs, to see for them, who told him she had narrowly searcht the bed, and could find none; whereupon he taxed *Charleton* with them, who confest he had them, and that he must go along with him before a Justice of the Peace, who accordingly went with him, there he swore positively that he was a Popish Priest, and alledged High Treason against him, who (although innocent of what was laid to his Charge) committed him to *Bristol* Gaol, where he remained three dayes, very civilly used by all the Prisoners, and especially by the Master of the Prison, and visited by several persons of Quality in the Town, who flocked to see him, and there during his Confinement shewed him great respect and kindness.

Presently after his Commitment news of him being brought to the Council, Captain *Carter* a very civil, obliging person, and one of his Majesties Messengers, by especial order from the Privy Council, and the King's especial Warrant, was ordered by the Lords to take into his Custody the body of Mr. *John Fitz-Gerald*, who immediately according to order went to *Bristol*, and brought Mr. *Fitz-Gerald* as his Prisoner up to *London* before his Majesties most Honourable Privy Council, where he accordingly appeared, and gave their Lordships full satisfaction in all things concerning his Papers, himself and Business, was by their Lordships discharged and ordered to proceed on his Journey, who acquainting their Lordships with his indisposition by his Journey, and being an infirm person, he desired some respite for two or three dayes, and then he would obey their Lordships Commands, if those necessaries were provided for him which he must necessarily have along with him, to which Answer was made he should have them, whereupon he withdrew, and Mr. *Charleton* was committed to the *Gate-house*, though since he is as I am informed released.

Thus have I given a short and impartial Account of Mr. *Fitz Geralds* proceedings, concerning whom we have had little or no satisfaction in some of our Intelligences; I hope at his return from *Ireland*, we shall have a compleat, and more full account of his Journey, and of his Discovery; and this in the mean time was printed to satisfie all sober people of his Innocency, and vindicate him from that aspersion, and calumny of being a *Jesuite*, whose Principles I am very confident, are far different from his, who has embraced our dear Mother the Church of *England*, and puts himself under her protection and safeguard, from whom none can stray, but be worse, who detests and abhorrs those Tenents which the Church of *Rome* do maintain; and who is likewise desirous and ambitious of nothing, so much as to be serviceable in his Generation, and in that Station wherein God has placed him, to make a farther discovery of their Plots and Intrigues, for which purpose he is now gone, and for whose good success and happy return, all will pray, who wish the prosperity, and happy Tranquillity of these three Kingdoms. That *Popish Plots* may be more and more confounded, and detected, and the *Protestant Religion* established to us, and ours, is, and shall be, the sincere and hearty prayer to the Throne of Grace,

Dear Countreymen,

Of your humble Servant,

Philalethes.

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